

Winter Wilderness Workshop-III on "Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management for Industries – Understanding the Fundamentals" was conducted from 7–9 January 2026 at Hotel Airport Centre Point, Nagpur. The programme began with an inaugural session led by Dr. Sameer Deshpande, Convenor, Econsus Environmental Solutions LLP, followed by an overview by Dr. Sharda Kosankar, Principal Scientist, and the inaugural address by Dr. S. Venkata Mohan, Director, CSIR-NEERI. A special address by Dr. Peter Smetacek, noted conservationist and popularly known as the Butterfly Man of India, emphasised the role of biodiversity—especially insects—as ecological indicators. Technical sessions covered floristic diversity (Dr. Omesh Bajpai), faunal biodiversity (Dr. Satya Prakash Mehra), pollinator assessment (Dr. Peter Smetacek), and GIS-based biodiversity assessment (Dr. Rakesh Kadvaguru). The second day featured a field visit to Gorewada Forest, offering hands-on exposure to aquatic and terrestrial ecology, wildlife census methods, camera trapping, and snake rescue practices, guided by Dr. Sameer Deshpande, Dr. Satya Prakash Mehra, Dr. Sharda Kosankar, Dr. Sachin Thakre, and Mr. Narendra Sahu. The concluding day included expert lectures on marine biodiversity (Dr. Abhay Fulke), legal aspects of biodiversity conservation (Dr. Trishla Dubey), industry-oriented biodiversity management and greenbelt assessment (Dr. Sameer Deshpande), and freshwater biodiversity and indicator species (Dr. Sharda Kosankar), followed by interactive discussions and certificate distribution. This event was organized by Econsus Environmental Solutions LLP, Nagpur in association with CSIR-NEERI as the Knowledge Partner.



